

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-15, 17-18 and 25-28 were pending. Claims 1-15, 17-18 and 25-28 were rejected, but would be allowable if deficiencies are corrected. In this response, claims 1, 6, and 25-28 have been amended. No new claims have been added. No claims have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Amendments

Amendments to the Claims

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-15, 17-18, and 25-28

Claims 1-15, 17-18 and 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' invention as claimed in claims 1-15, 17-18 and 25-28, as amended, is definite in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Specifically, independent claims 1, 6 and 25-28 have been amended pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions to recite claim limitations as positive steps that perform the underlying process. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 6 and 25-28, as amended, are definite in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Given that claims 2-5, 7-15 and 17-18 depend from one of the above independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-5, 7-15 and 17-18 are also definite in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-15, 17-18 and 25-28 would contain allowable subject matter if the deficiencies stated in the Office Action are corrected. Applicant respectfully submitted that all deficiencies are corrected in claims 1-15, 17-18 and 25-28, as amended.

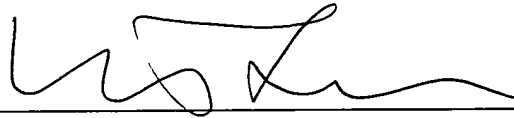
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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